

Lady Hawks Soar to Victory, Claim Section Title

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#### Warriors' Championship Dreams Dashed in Heartbreaking Shootout

AGE **12** 



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FEBRUARY 28, **2025** 

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# STEELE NAMED GALT PD OFFICER OF THE YEAR



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## WHAT IS A 'REGULAR CHURCH?'



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## Police Department Unveils Grewal Memorial



The Galt Police Department unveiled a memorial for Officer Harminder Grewal, who died in the line of duty in 2021 after a truck slammed into his cruiser while he and his partner were responding to the Caldor Fire.

Story and photo by Sean P.Thomas City Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a heartfelt ceremony attended by family, fellow officers and community members, the Galt Police Department unveiled a memorial bust honoring Officer Harminder Grewal, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty in 2021.

The solemn but well-attended event was held outside the department headquarters on Thursday, Feb. 20, and served as a tribute to Grewal's memory, dedication and sacrifice. The bust is positioned prominently in front of the Galt Police

Department.
Grewal died on Aug.

26, 2021, a few days after a pickup truck crossed the median on Highway 99 and collided head-on with his patrol car. He and his partner were responding to assist with evacuation orders for the Caldor Fire when the crash occurred. Grewal suffered critical injuries and succumbed days later, leaving behind a grieving department and

community.

Galt Police Chief Brian Kalinowski spoke at the ceremony, reflecting on Grewal's impact and the hole that was left in the department after his untimely death.

"It was a great turnout," Kalinowski said. "I will tell you that the staff and Adan from Romo Studios

Continued on Page 3

## **Galt Saturday Market Returns**

By Sean P. Thomas City Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - It's that time of year

again.
The Galt Saturday Market Series

makes its triumphant return from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, bringing an array of baked goods, delicious cuisines, retail options for the home, crafts, live entertainment and much more to the Fourth Street Promenade.

It's the fourth year for the event, which is held on the first Saturday of every month between March and November. Jackie Garcia, special events manager for the city of Galt, said each year it has continued to grow, with 2025 expected to be the biggest year yet.

"I think that we have built this so it is not just a shopping experience," Garcia said. "It is providing an experience for the whole family to enjoy and they feel like they don't just have to come here and shop. There are plenty of activities for everyone."

The event kicked off in 2020 as a Friday Night Market series, then in 2023 transitioned to the Saturday Market series, which led to significant growth in both vendor participation and attendance.

When the series was on Friday, Garcia said, there were only 20 to 30 vendors. Now the event has ballooned to more than 125 vendors, with upwards of 1,500 people attending for each event, compared to around 200 people when the event was on Friday.

Garcia said as the event continues to grow, vendors continue to flock to the market from further away, including as far out as Tracy.

Parks and Recreation Director



The Galt Saturday Market Series returns to the Fourth Street Promenade on Saturday, March 1, mixing live music, retail opportunity, delicious food and other community and family events. Photo courtesy of Galt Parks and Recreation Department

Armando Solis said attendance has steadily increased as word of mouth spreads about the budding market

series. way

"A lot of things we hear is that 'oh,
my cousin told me to come down so
I'm visiting her, and they brought us

out here, or I am visiting relatives out here and they wanted me to come to this," Solis said. "That is another way to get people from out of town down here. There is a lot of family connection."

Continued on Page 7

### Legal Office Rejects State's New Fuel Rules

By Alejandro Lazo Calmatters.org

In a surprising twist, California's controversial new fuel standard — a key part of its effort to replace fossil fuels — has been rejected by the state agency that reviews the legality of state regulations.

The fuel standard enacted by the Air Resources Board last year was the subject of a rancorous debate, largely because it will potentially increase the price of gasoline and diesel fuels by an unknown amount.

The rules were rejected by the state Office of Administrative Law, a state agency whose mandate is to ensure "regulations are clear, necessary, legally valid, and available to the public." The law office informed the air board that the rule does not conform with a provision in state code that requires "clarity" in rulemaking "so that the meaning of regulations will be easily understood by those persons directly

The air board said it would review the order and then resubmit the rules, which would be required within 120 days. Any substantial changes, however, would require a delay, including a public comment period.

affected by them."

The low carbon fuels program, which offers financial incentives to companies to produce cleaner transportation fuels, aims to help transition the state away from fossil fuels that contribute to smog and other air pollution and greenhouse gases that warm the planet.

The program, which has existed since 2011, is a \$2-billion credit trading system that requires fuels sold in California to become progressively cleaner, while giving companies financial incentives to produce less-polluting fuels, such as biofuels made from soybeans or cow manure.

In an initial assessment released in 2023, the air board projected that the new rules could potentially raise the price of diesel by 59 cents per gallon and gasoline by 47 cents. But air board officials later disavowed that estimate, saying that the analysis "should not be misconstrued as a prediction of the future credit price nor as a direct impact on prices at the pump."

A report by the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy

Continued on Page 2

**GaltHerald.com** 

## **Steele Named Galt PD** Officer of the Year

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Police Department honored some of the best and brightest on the force during its annual awards banquet on Feb. 20.

The vaunted Officer of the Year award went to Cpl. Greg Steele, who has served with the department since 2017.

Other recipients include Sarah Arendt as Dispatcher of the Year, Wendy Masters as Professional Staff of the Year, Craig Palmer as Volunteer of the Year and Karyme Milano as Explorer of the Year.

"These individuals have demonstrated exceptional bravery, leadership, and commitment to serving and protecting our Galt community," the department wrote in a statement. "Their unwavering dedication to public service and safety does not go unnoticed, and we are honored to celebrate their achievements. Please join us in congratulating them for their outstanding service."

Officer Kyle Hughes was awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Award, which is



Kyle Hughes was named the recipient of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Award for making 26 DUI arrests, the most in the department for 2024.



Dispatcher of the Year went to Sarah Arendt.



Cpl. Greg Steele, center, was named Officer of the Year at the Galt Police Department's annual awards banquet on Feb. 20. Photos courtesy Galt Police Department



Craig Palmer is Volunteer of the Year.



Karyme Milano is Explorer of the Year.

awarded to the officer who made the most DUI arrests.

Hughes made 26 DUI arrests in 2024.

In addition, Sgt. Chris Smith, Cpl. Greg Steele, Ofc. Jared Spinelli, Ofc. Andrew Robison, Det. Marie Valdez, Ofc. Andrew Ramirez, Ofc. Zachary Oden, Ofc. Austin Steele, Ofc. Luis Lara and Ofc. Ernesto Martinez were all awarded the department's Lifesaving Award.

The award is given to officers for extraordinary bravery in the line of duty.

Sgt. Roderick Fisher (14 years), Reserve Officer and Parks and Recreation Director Armando Solis (31 years) and K9 Kane (six years) received recognition of Distinguished Service for commitment to the community and to public service.

### Legal Office Rejects State's New Fuel Rules

Continued from page 1

predicted that the fuel standard changes could increase the cost of gas by 85 cents a gallon through 2030.

Republican legislators, who protested the rule and introduced a bill to repeal it,

applauded the decision to reject them.

'Families in this state are already grappling with soaring living costs, and a gas price hike of 65 cents or more will only deepen their financial strain," Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, a Republican from

Redlands, said in a statement. "It's deeply frustrating that the governor's administration ignored calls for reconsideration from the start."

Supporters say the new rules are necessary to keep California on track for its ambitious climate goals, including netzero emissions by 2045. But critics have warned that the new standards could push

gas prices even higher in a state where drivers already pay some of the highest fuel costs in the nation.

The air board last month was forced to abandon other climate and air pollution rules that would have cleaned up truck and train emissions because the Trump administration would reject granting them waivers.

4/3/1945-1/31/2025 HELEN M. SHELLS

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

-1 Corinthians 13:7. Helen M. Shells oassed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on January 31st, 2025, at the age of 79. Helen was born in Texarkana, Arkansas on April 3, 1945, and is survived by her children, Lorenzo (Faviola) Shells, Lana (Antonio) Nazario, her "grands" Sterling Shells, Monique Shells, Raina (J. Campbell) Nelson, Lorena Shells, Victoria Balvin and her "greatgrand" Alina Shells. Helen was the oldest



of ten children and is survived by her siblings-Genevia Earley, Olivia Earley, Patricia Earley Valerie Earley, Bernard Earley and Larry Earley. She is lovingly remembered by a host of nieces. nephews, friends and the communities of Galt, Lodi, Elk Grove and Stockton, California.

Helen is predeceased in death by her parents, Juanita and Otho Earley, her baby sister Florine Earley, baby brothers Roy Lee and Otho Lee

MEMORIAL

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Sunday, March 9th, 2025, at 1:00pm at the Galt Adventist Church, 619 Myrtle Ave, Galt, Calfornia 95632, with Loyd Henderson officiating, and refreshments will be served immediately following the service.

Those who wish make memorial donations in memory of Helen M. Shells. please contact Galt Adventist Church 619 Myrtle Ave Galt, 95632, California (209)-745-3577.

Expires 3/31/2025

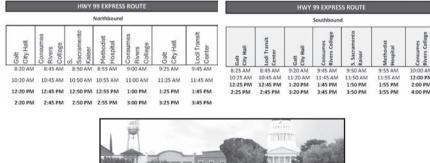
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## Police Department Unveils Grewal Memorial

Continued from page 1

worked tirelessly to get this final product here and it looks amazing."

"We do enough work on the day to day to just run the business, and when you have a tragedy like this and all the things you have to produce to properly pay tribute to the loss of an officer's life it can be taxing on the staff," he added. "The staff has been A-plus and really worked hard to make this happen. I couldn't be prouder of the organization and the community to make this possible for the family."

Kalinowski described Grewal as a dedicated officer with an infectious and upstanding demeanor, who was beloved by his fellow law enforcement officers at the department.

Grewal's family, including his father, Gurdeep Grewal, and his mother, Jaswinder Grewal, and siblings attended the unveiling. His sister Navdeep Sidhu offered a heartfelt memorial, fighting back tears as she spoke on Harminder and his life. She was shouldered by her brother Jasdeep Grewal.

"I thank the community so much because they came to show support for my brother," Sidhu said after the memorial. "We are happy and glad that they joined us. Without them we are nothing, because if they give us support that is why we have (this memorial)."

The event was attended by members of the New York Police Department, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, the Cosumnes Community Services District, Riverside Police Department and the



Navdeep Sidhu, right, and her brother, Jasdeep Grewal, embrace after Navdeep provided a speech honoring their brother Harminder Grewal at a memorial ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 20.

West Sacramento Police Department.

The memorial bust, a bronze likeness of Grewal, now stands as a symbol of his service. The bust was created by Adan Romo of Romo Studios in Midtown Sacramento. Romo said he was adamant about finding a way to squeeze the memorial into his busy schedule after learning Harminder Grewal's story.

"I would have said no to any other project, but this project just resonated with me," Romo said. "Both the family and the city of Galt, and the individual that officer Grewal was."

Local officials, including Vice Mayor Paul Sandhu and city council members, praised Grewal's commitment to public service. Mayor Shawn Farmer could not attend due to a scheduling conflict but sent his condolences.

"We will never forget this ultimate sacrifice and thank you to all who made this possible," Sandhu said. Council member Tim



Officer Harminder Grewal. Photo courtesy of Galt Police Department.

Reed said while he didn't know Grewal, the stories that he has heard about the officer made him wish he "It was great to see everyone come together for this, but hopefully, knock on wood, this never happens again," Reed said. \*



Vice Mayor Paul Sandhu, flanked by Galt Police Chief Brian Kalinowski, spoke at the service for Officer Harminder Grewal shortly before the memorial bronze bust was revealed.



Harminder Grewal's father, Gurdeep Grewal, stands with the bronze bust next to Galt Chief of Police Brian Kalinowski.



Jeffery Newby, a friend of Harminder Grewal's father, Gurdeep Grewal, arrived with flowers to mourn the fallen officer. Newby said his father was a first responder who died in Stockton.



Members of the Galt Police Department stand at parade rest during the bust memorial unveiling.



### City of Plymouth California

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(Salary Range DOE \$6,512.85-\$7,916.41) First Review 03/10/2025 (Open Until Filled)

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1 Full-Time Position Available

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Application materials are online at www.cityofplymouth.org. Application materials can be emailed, mailed or hand-delivered to Plymouth City Hall, Human Resources, 9426 Main Street/P. O. Box 429, Plymouth, CA 95669; emailed to vmchenry@cityofplymouth.org; faxed (209)245-6953.

#### THE POSITION

The Public Works Superintendent is a management class within the Public Works series. Positions in this classification are responsible for managing, assigning and overseeing the work crews and performing maintenance activities. Incumbents are expected to perform the full scope of assigned duties. This classification is distinguished from the next lower classification of Public Works Supervisor by the performance of crew-leader level responsibilities on an on-going basis.

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Any combination of education and experience that has provided the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a Public Works Superintendent. A typical way of obtaining the required qualifications is to possess the equivalent of three years of broad and extensive experience in public works or related service delivery operations, including at least one year in a responsible management capacity, and a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, construction, public administration, facility management or a related field is preferred.

#### SELECTION PROCEDURE

Candidates must submit application materials that include a complete and signed employment application and copies of any required certificates or license listed under the requirements.

A complete job description and Application materials are available online at www.cityofplymouth.org. Completed Application materials can be emailed, mailed or hand-delivered to Plymouth City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 9426 Main Street; P. O. Box 429, Plymouth, CA 95669; emailed to vmchenry@city-ofplymouth.org.

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## Kings Korner By V.G. Harris The stretch drive has begun in earnest

and the new version of the Sacramento Kings is front and center. Take a long look, because what you see assembled is largely what you'll see for the remainder of the season.

The question on the minds of every fan is whether we are better or worse after the consummation of the DeAaron

Many fans and pundits have focused on DeAaron's attributes as a scorer and distributor, but many never gave him credit for being the defender that he is. Already the Kings are having difficulty replacing Fox on the offensive end, and turnovers are markedly up since his departure.

This is partly due to players taking on new roles, and Malik Monk has struggled to some degree moving from his natural position as a 2-guard to running the point. Part of the problem is the increased energy it takes to be the primary ball handler and distributor on offense. Malik is capable of running the point, but with the addition of Markelle Fultz, and rookie Devin Carter coming off the bench, it may be possible for Malik to assume his natural place as the 2-guard.

Without question Fultz is a mystery, but a fully healthy Markelle Fultz may surprise Kings fans, and perhaps make people remember that he was the overall No.1 pick in the 2017 draft. Yes, the very same draft in which the Sacramento Kings drafted DeAaron Fox in the fifth spot.

No one wants to hear that this new assembly needs time to gel, but in reality, it will take several games before coach Christie will have a better understanding of his new talent.

So, with less than 30 games to go, and every game becoming more and more meaningful, what are the keys to Kings making the playoffs this year.

No. 1, know the talent on your team. Sounds simple, but are the right players coming off the bench every game?

Newcomer Jake LaRavia has been eating up minutes but has had little to show. In the game against the Warriors LaRavia clocked 16 minutes and scored 0 points and 0 assists. That simply can't happen. At 6'7" Jake is another tweener, and what the Kings need is someone to compliment Domantas Sabonis with post defense and rebounding help.

Sitting idly on the bench is 6'9" Isaac Jones, who at 245 pounds has a wing span of 7'3". Just in his rookie season, the Kings have yet to fully see what Jones can bring to the table. When sent to G-league he played like a man among boys, but coach Christie has been reluctant to give this big man any meaningful minutes.

This writer would much rather see an athletic Isaac Jones logging minutes than Jake LaRavia, who is largely just taking

It's time to stop experimenting and stick with a rotation that can produce on both ends of the floor.

Although it's early, I believe newcomer Markelle Fultz can run the point and allow Malik to fill the 2-guard spot where he's more comfortable.

The 2nd key to making the playoffs is that individual players need to step up and play the way they can play. We have yet to see the best of Zach LaVine, and not to be left out, Keegan Murray simply needs to shoot the ball better. We know he's capable, but his lack of consistent offense leaves us wondering what's wrong. Murray needs to look for his shot and not fear shooting it. Monday night's game against the

Charlotte Hornets will give fans a better barometer as to where the Kings are, but without a doubt, LaVine and Murray are key players that can make an appreciable difference, and I want to see both of these players step up and make

Keep your eye on bench rotations, and especially who is bringing the ball downcourt. I'm a huge fan of Malik Monk, but I want to see him used where he benefits the team the most.

Stay tuned Kings fans. A lot can happen in a ten-game stretch, so let's see where we are after the next 10 games.

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

### **Social Security Matters**

### Can I Get Extra Social Security for my Military Service?



AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Please help. I served from 1964 to 1966 in the US Army. I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording, and you never get to speak to anyone. The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble? Signed: Disabled American Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran: My profound thanks for your service to our country. FYI, the "special extra credit for military service" you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may - or may not - affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I've written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read at this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case (serving between 1964 and 1966), if you told Social Security of

your military service when you applied for benefits (or gave them a copy of your DD-214), they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years). However, whether those special extra credits would affect your SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earnings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" (or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your SS full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than what you earned while serving, Social Security would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn't affect your benefit. If, however, any of your military earnings (including the "special extra credits") were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your post-service earnings history. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS

benefit already includes consideration of your military service. Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't advise SS of your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" when you applied. However, if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those "special extra credits" for your military service years.

FYI, we know it is often difficult to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment (which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits "by appointment only" and you can call the above number to schedule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I've said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the "special extra credits for military service," are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is "yes" then it is likely worth it; if "no" then perhaps not.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.

### **Los Angeles Wildfires Intensify Political Jousting Over Home Insurance Premiums**



By Dan Walters. CALMatters.org

The timing could not have been better — or worse.

The horrendously destructive and deadly Los Angeles wildfires erupted in January just as Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara's historic and very controversial overhaul of how insurers calculate premiums was taking

On one hand, the disaster drove home the insurance industry's contention that California's propensity for such catastrophes creates immense potential losses that cannot be profitably insured without changes in the rate-making system.

However as fire victims inundated insurers with claims, Lara faced pressure to crack down on companies that minimized or delayed settlement payments. Meanwhile, his critics accuse him of being too cozy with the industry he regulates, as a Los Angeles Times article detailed this It is, to put it mildly, a

yeasty situation.

Lara, a former state leg-

islator who was elected as insurance commissioner in 2018, began drafting his new regulatory plan in response to decisions by major insurers to cut back on policies in California — or even leave the state altogether — because of seemingly endless waves of destructive wildfires.

They contended that arising from the disaster. California's long-standing system for calculating premiums, basing them on past experiences, was inadequate. They wanted to include estimates of future exposure, and the costs of obtaining reinsurance to ease their losses, in the

Lara incorporated those changes in his plan, but only if insurers were more willing to write policies in fire-prone regions.

"Giving people more choices to protect themselves is how we will solve California's insurance crisis," Lara said as he released details of the plan. "For the first time in history we are requiring insurance companies to expand where people need help the most. With our changing climate we can no longer look to the past. We are being innovative and forward-looking to protect Californians' access to insurance."

It drew sharp criticism from Consumer Watchdog, the Southern California organization that wrote the 1988 ballot measure making the insurance commissioner's position elective and increasing regulatory powers. The group had been sniping at Lara ever since his election, accusing him of taking campaign money from insurers and not aggressively overseeing their operations.

The group had benefited handsomely from "intervenor fees" in rate-making cases awarded by previous commissioners. Lara has been less generous, although the organization got \$643,530 in 2024, 100% of the year's awards.

The Los Angeles fires have forced Lara to juggle his longterm efforts to stabilize the insurance market with immediate responses to issues

Lara authorized insurers to impose assessments on their policyholders to shore up the shaky finances of California's FAIR plan, a last-ditch system that covers property owners unable to get coverage from the regular market that has seen a huge

increase in applications. However, he refused to immediately approve a request by State Farm, California's largest insurer, for a 22% emergency rate hike, saying the company had to prove a need.

If nothing else, the Los Angeles fires underscored the absolutely vital role of a healthy insurance market — not only in protecting the investments that Californians have in their homes and businesses, but as a key component in buying and selling of real estate. Lenders simply will not issue mortgages for property that is uninsured.

The insurance commissioner must, of course, protect the interests of consumers, but one of those interests is a healthy insurance market, and a parallel duty is making insurance profitable enough to keep insurers willing to do business in California.

Whether Lara's rate-making overhaul will fulfill both of those imperatives remains uncertain. He at least deserves credit for trying to fix a dysfunctional system after the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom bowed out and gave him the task. .Dan Walters is one of most

decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends.

### **SACRAMENTO** CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

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## **EUROPEAN MASTERWORKS**

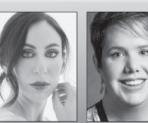
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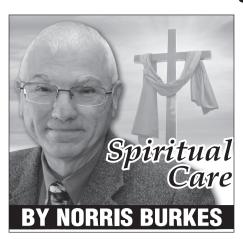




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### What is a 'Regular Church?'



Some months back, I paid a visit to a sister congregation in town and found a lively gathering, led by an energetic leadership team.

The four-year-old church seemed committed to emulate the New Testament church using a daylong format to share their resources, eat and fellowship. I came to learn how our traditional church might find regenerative energy.

Afterwards, I asked some of them what they liked about their church. I heard several good answers, but one woman intrigued me.

"The first time I walked into this church, I could tell I'd found a "wholesome place."

"Definitely a wholesome-looking bunch," I

"Yes," she added. "No one with piercings or "Probably there are a few tattoos somewhere," I

said, hinting at my concealed tattoo.

"Yes, just regular people," she asserted. I wondered what she meant by "regular?"

That's the word that my 16-year-old grandson

uses when requesting a pizza. That's because his "regular" is cheese and pep-

peroni only. "Wholesome and regular" isn't what this

woman might have found if she'd come with me to a Florida church where I spoke a year ago. Becky and I were greeted by a tall member

wearing a wholesome dress, with no observable She handed us a bulletin.

"Hello Norris! I'm Francis and I'm looking forward to hearing you speak."

Her deeper voice was clue she was a transgender woman, some would say, not a "regular

Immediately, I became aware of the discomfort coming over me.

My somewhat liberal/inclusive self was working overtime to assure me that my greeter was OK, but my evangelical rearing was screaming to be

I've been among Christians who say, "This is unwholesome. It's highly irregular. Oh my, what restroom does she use? Does this church allow her to work in the children's programs?"

I know these thoughts because they have also been mine at one time.

But discomfort aside, I looked into her eyes, level with my six-foot frame, shook her hand and thanked her for the bulletin. I was collecting the determination to make this a learning opportunity.

I wish I could tell you that I invited Francis for pizza to hear her story.

But I didn't.

However, last month, I emailed her pastor, Annette Stiles Pendergrass, asking her for some background to this column. Before sharing, Annette suggested we use the pseudonym, Francis.

"The church had always known Francis as Frank. But she came to me in 2016, pretty late in life, transitioning as a man dressed in women's clothing. She asked if the congregation would welcome her back into worship. She was very kind and respectful with her question.

"I told her I had no problem with welcoming her and that while I couldn't vouch for everyone in the congregation, it was my hope folks would be open, welcoming and kind.

"It has not always been easy for her or for others. We have lost people because of our choice to not only welcome her, but to treat her as anyone else.

"Francis's presence and participation has definitely been part of our church journey to become more and more open and inclusive welcome for all. "Is everyone comfortable with this inclusive

welcome? Probably not yet."

You're right, Annette, I'm not always comfortable with fluid gender definitions. But I say "amen" to your email conclusion, "We are all on a journey of sanctification and I'm grateful for God's grace in that process." Thank you for sharing with us, Pastor

AnnettTruthfully, I'm still trying to work some things out as I consider the role of LBGTQ in the Christian community. I think many pastors are. So I'm hoping that Francis's story will advanced our understanding. She reminds me that the early New Testament

gathered in homes and sometimes underground. Their membership was filled with cussing fisherman, beggars, the widowed, the blind, prostitutes and even Roman collaborators. They were broken people who set the bar for

church was likely very irregular. Early believers

acceptance and became the earliest example of how to do church. Or as I committed on our church sign, "This is a safe place to explore your faith."

By the way, Annette, the next time I'm in town, let's have Francis over for pizza. Order "regular" meat lover for me and a Chicken Garlic supreme

Oh boy. I hope my pizza preference doesn't

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### **Library Offers Older Adults Computer Time**

In cooperation with the Galt Commission on Aging, the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library will schedule a set time for older adults to use its computers, upon request. Those 65 and older who want computer time can call the library at 916-264-2920. Staff will help set up the computer or tablet.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 1000 Caroline Ave.

#### **City After-Hours** Assistance

After-hours assistance is available at the Galt Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments. For Public Works concerns, call the Galt Police Department nonemergency line at 209-366-7000.

The Parks Maintenance Division is available for scheduled field or facility use assistance only from to 10 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 209-810-0293.

#### **Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings**

Narcotics Anonymous (Nar-Anon) family group meetings for friends and family members who are dealing with drug addiction are held locally from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Galt United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt.

#### **AA 24-Hour Hotline**

For help with an alcohol-related problem, call the Alcoholics Anonymous 209-745-1525.

#### **Recycle Household Batteries**

City of Galt residents can recycle their household batteries in one of two green household-battery recycling bins: on the west side at the front entrance to the Galt Police Department or on the east side at Galt Community Park, just west of the fire station.

The green bin is only for dry-cell household batteries.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260.

#### **Volunteers Sought** for Senior Resource Center

The Commission on Aging is looking for volunteers to operate a computer and are willing to answer questions from seniors in person, over the phone, on social media and by email at the Galt Senior Resource Center.

Volunteer slots are available in two-hour increments for up to four hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, excluding holidays.

Volunteers will be trained and can contact commission members if questions arise.

The resource center is at the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave. If interested in helping, call 209-294-3308 and leave a message or inquire in

#### **Sunshine Food Pantry Donations** Sunshine Food Pantry

24-hour hotline at is a food closet that helps provide for residents.

Collections of canned food and dry good nonperishable items are received at United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt; call to make an appointment for donations at 209-745-4133.

The food closet is open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the United Methodist Church.

#### Nominate Your Neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee wants you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know.

Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to planningdivision@cityofgalt.org.

The best submissions will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates.

#### Meals on Wheels Cafe Accepting **Older Adults**

Meals on Wheels is accepting new participants in its Galt All Seasons Café located in the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave.

The cafe is open at 11:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays for adults age 60 and older. Those interested can apply at the Chabolla Center when meals are being served or they can call 916-444-9533.

### **MEETING MINDERS**

#### Sunday, March 2

Galt 4-H Club meeting, 4 p.m., at either Barbara Payne Community Garden or Grange Hall (depending on weather); see Facebook page GALT 4-H or email galt4h@gmail.com.

#### Monday, March 3

Lodi Parkinson's Support Group, 10 a.m., GracePoint Church, 801 Lower Sacramento Road (enter off Tokay

Publisher,

Paul V. Scholl

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Be sure to place in the

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6:30 p.m., Council Hendrickson Hall, 12746 Chambers, 380 Civic

#### Tuesday, March 4 Galt City Council, 6

p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

#### Wednesday, March 5

Cosumnes CSD, 5 p.m., Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove

Herald Community Galt Youth Commission, Club, 6:30 p.m., Ivie Road, Herald, 209-810-8390.

Sacramento LAFCo, 5:30 p.m., County Administration Center boardroom, 700 H St.

#### Friday, March 7

Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617.

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

You who have made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideals, you who have given me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me, I thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Amen. L.B.

Say this prayer for three days and ask your favor, promise to publish.

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It is the intent of *The Galt Herald* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

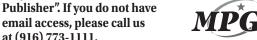
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### **ABOUT TOWN**

#### Shamrock Stroll & Shop – Galt Saturday Market March 1

The City of Galt is hosting the Shamrock Stroll and Shop event, part of the Saturday Market Series at the Fourth Street Promenade.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will feature shopping, green beer, cabbage bowling, seasonal treats, a leprechaun scavenger hunt and more. Guests are encouraged to wear green.

#### Oil Filter Exchange March 1

The city of Galt is hosting a free used oil filter exchange from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at O'Reilly Auto Parts at 10370 Twin Cities Road.

Anyone with used filters can swap out them out for a new filter for free (the limit is two per person).

Commercial automotive or repair facilities are prohibited from participating in

#### Lodi Lake Bird Walk March 1

Join leader Pat Paternostro and other San Joaquin Audubon Society members for our monthly visit to Lodi Lake. There is free parking along Laurel Avenue, where we begin our visit by checking out the oaks there.

Our leader will then guide us through the nearby Nature Area. We will search for both residents and migrants. All levels of birders are welcome, particularly newbies who are interested in learning more about birds and birding.

Attendees are recommended to bring their own optics, but there are a few loaners available. We meet along Laurel Avenue, which forms the southeast border of Lodi Lake Park.

#### Wilton Bingo Games Monthly

The next bingo will be on Saturday, March 1. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m. in the Wilton Community Center (9717 Colony Road, at Dillard Road).

All proceeds go to two non-profits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History

Questions, call Lorraine Robinson at 916-212-8896.

#### Galt Café and Cars March 8

The Galt Cafe & Cars is every second Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Cafe Latte, 1000 C St.

The event is open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and pretty much anything with wheels.

#### **Cosumnes River History Walk** March 9

The Cosumnes River Preserve is hosting a guided walk of the Cosumnes River on March 9. Discover the stories and secrets of this beautiful river while enjoying the serene surroundings of the preserve.

This in-person event will start at 13501 Franklin Blvd. in Galt and is perfect for nature lovers, history buffs and anyone looking for a fun outdoor adventure. The event will start at 10 a.m. and admission

#### **Lockeford Knights of Columbus** St. Patrick's Dinner March 15

Lockeford Knights of Columbus Council 14247 will host its St. Patrick's Dinner corned beef and cabbage celebration on Saturday, March 15. The evening will include a raffle and 50/50 raffle.

The cost is \$25, \$10 for children 6 to 12, 5 and under free. The event will include a no-host bar at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. at St Joachim's Parish Hall, 13392 Lockeford Ranch Drive, Lockeford.

Tables of eight may be reserved or tickets purchased by calling Dave at 209-304-6109. Proceeds go to help our local community.

#### **American Legion Post 233 Invites Veterans**

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 has general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m. Elk Grove American Legion Post 233

Family Breakfast meets the first Saturday each month with location TBD. Currently we meet at Mimi's Cafe on

the corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99). For information, call Henry at 916-205-

9296 or Sue at 916-683-6128. Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 233 meets the first Monday each month at 5:45 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic

Center Drive, Elk Grove. **Other Veterans Meetings Listed** 

American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units: fourth Wednesday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey

Marine Corps League: first Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting, 7p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073: second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

### **POLICE LOGS**

During the time period of Feb. 18 to Feb. 24, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 17 arrests.

#### Feb. 18

11:03 a.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Adare Way/Fermoy Way.

#### Feb. 19

6:59 a.m., Burglary-Auto, Cardinal Glass on Industrial Drive.

7:19 a.m., Burglary-In-Progress/adult arrest, Pecan Tree Lane.

8:18 a.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Starbucks on C Street.

8:18 a.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Starbucks on C Street. 10:47 a.m., Vandalism, Salvador

Gonzalez Labor Contractor on Fourth Street: Unhoused subject lit bush on fire in front of location. 9:35 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest,

7-Eleven on Pine Street.

11:02 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Fourth Street/F Street.

#### Feb. 20

4:34 a.m., Attempted Theft/Tamper, Lariat Loop: Tires taken from vehicle.

#### Feb. 21

4:52 p.m., Theft, Elk Hills Drive. 8:47 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, Fourth Street/I Street.

#### Feb. 22

5:10 a.m., Stolen vehicle reported, Walmart on Twin Cities Road.

9:40 a.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Elk Hills Drive.

5:56 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Brewster's Bar & Grill on Fourth Street.

#### Feb. 23

4:40 a.m., Stalking/adult arrest, South Lincoln Way.

2:30 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Port Ashton Court. 4:15 p.m., Battery/adult arrest, Empire

Village Apartments on Palin Avenue. 9:05 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest,

North Lincoln Way/Simmerhorn Road.

#### Feb. 24

2:53 a.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Tesla Super Chargers, Twin Cities Road.

11:39 a.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Tractor Supply Company, Twin Cities Road.

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### County Celebrates Its Demisemiseptcentennial



Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - This year marks a significant milestone in the history of Sacramento County as it celebrates its 175th anniversary, also known as its demisemiseptcentennial.

Since its founding on Feb. 18, 1850, Sacramento County has been at the forefront of service delivery, evolving to meet the needs of its residents with integrity and innovation. Sacramento County was incorporated in response to the needs of a growing population. The county is one of the original 27

counties of California. The county charter was established in 1933 and is still in use today.

Sacramento County's population in 1850 was 9,087. Today, the county serves more than 1.6 million residents across its landscape. Over the past 175 years, Sacramento County has remained committed to providing essential services that enhance the quality of life for all who call it home.

The county's responsibilities to its residents have grown over the years, pursuant to the county charter or ordinances or by state or federal mandate to provide health and welfare,



The current Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is, from left, Patrick Kennedy (District 2), Phil Serna (District 1), Rosario Rodriguez (District 4), Rich Desmond (District 3) and Pat Hume (District 5). Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

criminal justice and municipal services (including law enforcement), as well as other services to county residents.

Major services include

the Airport System, Animal Care and Regulation, Clerk-Recorder, Criminal Justice, Health and Welfare, Property Tax System, Regional Parks, Transportation, Waste Management and Recycling, Voter Registration and Water Resources.

As part of our 175th

anniversary celebration, we invite you to share your historic photos of Sacramento County. Whether it's a beloved landmark, a community event or a special moment in time, we want to showcase your memories on our county website. Share your historic photos at saccounty.wufoo.com/ forms/celebrate-sacramento-countys-175th-anniversary.

Join us throughout the year as we commemorate 175 years of service, innovation and community spirit.

For more information about Sacramento County's Demisemiseptcentennial celebrations and to learn more about the essential services provided, visit the county's 175th Anniversary website at pio.saccounty. gov/anniversary175.

This newspaper will also run monthly updates about the demisemiseptcentennial celebrations.

## **Galt Saturday Market Returns**



Galt Parks and Recreation Director Armando Solis, right, and Special Events Manager Jackie Guzman help to spearhead the hotly anticipated event. More than 1.500 people are expected to attend each event on the Fourth Street Promenade. Photo courtesy of Galt Parks and Recreation



The Galt Saturday Market Series has grown to feature more than 125 vendors each month.

Continued from page 1

With each event comes a different theme, with the first being St. Patrick's Day.

Garcia said kids will be able to participate in cabbage bowling, a shamrock walk, a photo backdrop donated by a local vendor, seasonal treats, a leprechaun scavenger hunt and listen to live music.

For the adults, Papas and Wings will also be providing green beer and other alcoholic drinks. "That is the most import-

ant part," Solis said. "It's pretty good."

In April, the event will be themed around "Touch a Truck," where kids will be able to experience different large trucks, including police vehicles, fire trucks, lawn mowers, tree trimming trucks and more. The event will include a safety expo, in collaboration with

local law enforcement.

"A ton of trucks will come out and the kids get to touch them and get in them," Solis said. "And to me that is probably the most exciting part for the kids. Again, there is a different theme every month but that is probably the most exciting part for the kids."

May will be the "Shower Mom with Love" event, in preparation of Mother's Day; June will be a 1950s theme and July will center around Independence Day. Themes for August, September and November are still being planned.

Both Solis and Garcia highlighted a few new additions to the event.

Garcia said there will be a "nourish community" booth that will include monthly cooking demonstrations hosted by local

restaurants and chefs.

There will also be a "nourish kids" booth for kids to come out and learn about nutrition. Each child will receive a fruit, which is donated by the Galt Flea Market. Garden Partners will also be partnering with a local nonprofit to sell fruit at the booth.

While vendor applications are pretty much locked in place for March, Garcia said there is still room for prospective participants to sign up for the following Saturday events by reaching out to the Parks and Recreation Department and filling out a vendor application. Solis said the market still

has room to grow, and the hope is that eventually the event will stretch as far out as Seventh Street.

"That is my hope," Solis said. "To be so successful that we can expand to Seventh Street.'



and November. Image courtesy of Galt Parks and Recreation Department

## When You Care to Send the Very Best

According to the website national today. com, "Floral Design Day" is celebrated on Feb. 28, recognizing the art, history and significance of floral designs.

Did you know that floral designs are one of the most important cultural art forms in the world?

Yes, for thousands of years, floral design has been used in many forms across the world.

Floral Design Day was created with an idea to celebrate the wonderful art form of floral design and to honor the pioneer behind the growth and wide reach of floral arts in this world, Carl Rittner. The birthday of Rittner, Feb. 28, 1914, is officially celebrated as Floral Design Day in America every year.

The history of floral designs dates back to ancient Egypt, where the paintings, etchings and carvings in tombs reveal bouquets made of lotus blossoms and buds. So, there is no doubt that humans have been involved in this art form since

The rapid reach of floral designs started when Rittner gained interest in floral arts.



He attended Boston University, where he received his master's degree in education. To spread the art worldwide, he started Rittner's School of Floral Design in 1947. In 1995, the governor of Massachusetts, William F. Weld, proclaimed Feb. 28 as Floral Design Day.

From its opening until today, Rittner's school is teaching the many shapes and forms of floral designs to students across the world. They specialize in teaching floral designing, and it is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Today, floral design has grown as a multibillion-dollar industry that includes floral arrangements for special events, bouquets for weddings and holidays, and many other special occasions, and the contribution of Rittner is appreciated.

Thus, his day is all about honoring and celebrating the art, beauty and grace of floral arrangements and those involved in developing the unique art form.

Some fun facts: During the 1600s, tulip bulbs were more valuable that gold in Holland; Flowers make the most expensive spice. Saffron, the most expensive flavored spice in the world, comes from a type of crocus flower; Roses are related to apples. Yes, roses, one of the most popular flowers in the world, are related to apples, raspberries, cherries, pears and almonds. Amazing!

Shout out to the floral design teachers at Galt High and Liberty Ranch High Schools. Both high schools have excellent Agricultural Floral classes. Those classes design flowers for weddings, prom boutonnieres and wristlets, funerals, banquets, graduations, etc.

One class sells a yearly subscription to pick up a fresh flower arrangement once a month, and another class has "Rent a Plant" subscription for a year and the plant is taken care of and decorated for the different holidays by the students.

Some of the students had and have part time positions working in local florist

Thank you, Carl Rittner, for designing flowers to make our world a better place.

Can you believe it is the end of February already and March is coming on like a lion? We can replace the Valentines' décor and the red and white lights with St. Patrick's décor and green and white

Thank goodness, Easter is in April this year. Daylight Saving Time is going to raise its cheerful head, waking us up to rise an hour earlier in just a few days. Ugh! I am not looking forward to it. However, I will make the best of it and use that extra hour to read a book or maybe plant some flowers and while waiting for them to grow, go buy some cut flowers at the store and use some floral design techniques.

Until next week – be strong, be courageous, and make some memories.

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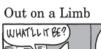






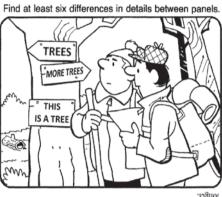












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1. Mrs. in Germany \*Nae Nae's partner

e.g. 26. Verb derived from

Royal Ballet company

Michelle Phillips 57. Eon, alt. sp.

58. Reminiscent of

63. Before, poetically 64. Koppel and Turner,

11. Salt, in Mexico

14. Aquatic scum

mation

27. 9 a.m. prayer 28. Ancient

8. m in F = ma 12. Deadly sin

14. Blood line

Miami University

17. Best friend quality 18. \*Sideways dance step

21. "That is" in Latin
22. Corvine bird's sound

23. Omicron or Delta,

30. Although, for short

31. Demijohn

40. Transmitted radio signal

50. Dracula's bane 52. \*Dancer's gardening tool simulation

certain hardwood, to

60. Flower holder

2. German industrial valley 3. "Heat of the Moment'

famous book

"Game of Thrones"

10. Immediately, to a doctor

13. Nine-day Christian

23. Pull strings 24. Not those

25. Comedy Central's public humiliation

29. Follow as a conseauence 32. Sturgeon output, pl.

15. State location of 16. Last word on radio

20. Buzzing pest

"wreath"

34. Kings of \_ 35. Act against 37. Bruin legend Bobby

38. Southern cuisine pods 39. Cold war initials

42. French vineyard 43. Strong suits 45. Overnight flight 47. Like a dancer in The

48. Polynesian island country

56. Cass Elliot and

sommelier 59. In a tilted position

61. Cartoon lightbulb 62. Police informer

#### DOWN

1. Use cat o'nine tails 4. Sir Thomas More's

5. Actress Viola \_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_ provocateur 7. Like some necessities 8. \*Michael Jackson's

backward move 9. Maisie Williams on

button 53. Place a load on

19. Authoritative procla-. Me a River"

26. \*a.k.a. caterpillar, with The

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33. Lingerie staple 36. \*Serena Williams' Super Bowl LIX move (2 words) 38. Theater, to Socrates

40. Sis' sibling 41. King's mantle fur 44. Painter Max or Director

Lubitsch 46. Armed gang member

in India 48. Asparagus unit 49. What phoenix did 50. Numbers

51. Gulf V.I.P. 52. "Keep this information"

54. Augmented 55. Swedish shag rugs 56. \*Running \_

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**10 · THE GALT HERALD** FEBRUARY 28, **2025** 

## Liberty Girls Basketball Heads to Section Finals



Summer McCoy carefully aims the ball.



Kendall Duryee shoots from the edge of the key.



Madisyn Robbins battles Ripon for a jump ball.

Story and Photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch girls' basketball team is making history this season, riding a remarkable 26-game winning streak as they prepare to make their debut at the Golden One Center for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Section playoffs. This year marks a monumental milestone for the Lady Hawks, as they head to the section finals for the first time in the school's history.

Following a dominant performance in league play, where they claimed the top seed in the playoffs, the Lady Hawks swiftly dispatched 13th-seeded Natomas in the first round with a resounding 68-33 victory.

With momentum on their side, they faced a historic challenge in the quarter-finals against Ripon in a game the Hawks had never managed to surpass in previous seasons. Yet, this determined group shattered that barrier, defeating Ripon 54-36 and proving they were ready for the next level.

The excitement in the air

was palpable as the semifinals approached, held on Feb. 25 in front of a raucous and enthusiastic home crowd. The Lady Hawks took on West Campus in a game that would require every ounce of their skill and focus. The first half saw Liberty Ranch showcasing impressive teamwork, with crisp passes and orchestrated plays giving them an 18-6 lead at halftime.

However, the Warriors weren't going to back down easily. West Campus mounted a determined comeback, steadily chipping away at the Hawks' lead and outscoring them in both the third and fourth quarters. Just when it seemed like the momentum had shifted, the Hawk defense stood firm, making crucial stops that ultimately preserved their narrow

The final score—Liberty Ranch 36, West Campus 32—sent the crowd into a frenzy and solidified the team's place in section history.

With the triumph, the Lady Hawks now turn their sights to the section championship game, set for Feb. 27 at the iconic Golden One Center. They will face the formidable Riverbank team, which comes in as the second seed. It promises to be an exhilarating match as both teams vie for the coveted title.

Head coach Josh Williams finds himself at a familiar crossroads. Though he has reached the championship finals numerous times with the boys' team, he has yet to secure a section title.

Now, he stands poised to make history with the Lady Hawks and bring home that elusive championship victory.

As they prepare for the showdown against Riverbank, the energy surrounding the team is electric.

This record setting squad has captured the hearts of their community. and supporters are rallying behind them as they aim to leave a lasting legacy. No matter the outcome on Feb. 27, the Liberty Ranch girls basketball team has already etched their names into the annals of the school's history.

As the Lady Hawks gear up for what promises to be a thrilling championship battle, one thing is clear: they're not just playing for a trophy but for the pride of their school and the dreams of every aspiring athlete that follows in their footsteps.

### Hawks Soar to Victory in **Section Championships**

Story and Photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a spectacular display of grit and determination, the Liberty Hawks boys soccer team has clinched the section title for the first time in three years, capping off a postseason filled with hard-fought victories. After sharing the league title with the Galt Warriors, the Hawks embarked on their playoff journey, marked by resilience and teamwork, beginning Feb. 14.

The playoffs kicked off against the 14th-seeded Weston Ranch, a match that was filled with tension as tempers flared on the opposite sideline. However, the Hawks remained unfazed, securing a narrow 2-1 win to advance to the quarterfinals. Next, on Feb. 18, the Hawks faced off against the 6th-seeded Lathrop. Once again, the Hawks

2-1 victory. The stakes continued to rise as they entered

demonstrated their mettle,

pulling ahead for another



Woodland from shooting.

the semi-finals on Feb. 20 against a formidable Dixon team. The Hawks, showcasing their tenacity, managed to clinch the match with a tense 2-1 scoreline once more, propelling them into the championship round. In the much-anticipated

final against the No. 1 seed, Woodland, the Hawks

entered the field ready for Woodland drew first blood with a well-placed shot that sailed over the Hawk goalie's head and nestled into the top of the

allowing any further goals

that paid off spectacularly. Led by standout perfor-

from Woodland, a tactic

mances, the Hawks turned the tide in their favor. Sophomore Abraham Flores kicked off the scoring for Liberty with a brilliant strike that pierced the Woodland defense. Soon after, fellow sophomore Christian Maciel showcased his knack for finding the back of the net, scoring just before halftime in a chaotic moment that saw him knocked over by the Woodland goalie yet

man Ivan Gonzalez, who

still managing to execute net. Undaunted, the Hawks his shot flawlessly. tightened their defensive The final blow came in line and refrained from the second half from fresh-



The Section Champion Liberty Ranch boys soccer team pose with their banner, hats and



It is a team effort to keep Woodland from scoring

scored the Hawks' third goal, sealing Woodland's fate with a convincing 3-1 triumph. Christobal Flores's two assists and Leyton Munoz's contribution with one assist were critical in setting up these pivotal goals. The jubilant celebra-

final whistle was a sight

to behold, as players

son. Head coach Garett rious team. tion that followed the

Arechiga echoed the sentiment of pride and unity when addressing his victo-"When you guys get down, it doesn't mean anything to you," Arechiga

said. "You just keep

embraced one another with

joy and relief after over-

coming the adversity they

faced throughout the sea-

grinding, and your perseverance is impressive. I love every single one of you guys. Like we say, one through 23 every match, boys. We are section champs, boys."

Coach Arechiga's mantra speaks volumes about the Hawks' ethos; every player is integral to their success, and the sense of camaraderie within this squad has proved to be an invaluable As they hoist their cham-

pionship banner high, the Liberty Ranch Hawks show that collaboration and hard work indeed lead to resounding success on the pitch. With their eyes now set on new challenges ahead, one thing is certain: These Hawks are soaring high this season and are poised to continue making waves in the coming years.

## Lady Hawks Soar to Victory, Claim Section Title

Story and Photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Monday, Feb. 10, the Lady Hawks of Liberty Ranch High School took down the Galt Warriors, ending their hopes for an undefeated season in league play with a narrow 1-0 victory. While the Warriors took home the league title, the Hawks' triumph signaled the start of an impressive fourgame shutout streak that has captivated fans and strengthened the team's resolve.

The Hawks, who entered the Division 5 Section Tournament as the No. 3 seed, enjoyed a round 1 bye before facing the No. 6 seeded Sutter Huskies in the quarterfinals on Feb. 18. The Hawks exhibited their dominance with a convincing 4-0 win, setting the stage for an upcoming challenge.

In a thrilling semifinal matchup on Feb. 20 against the No. 2 seeded Summerville Bears, the Lady Hawks secured a stunning upset with a 2-0 victory. With their momentum building, the Hawks marched into the Division 5 section title game on Saturday, Feb. 22, where they faced off against the formidable No. 1 seeded Hilmar Yellow Jackets, the defending champions.

In a masterful display of skill and determination, the Lady Hawks held the Yellow Jackets scoreless, sealing their victory with a 1-0 scoreline and celebrating their third section title in 13 years. The only goal of the game came from Serena Tarifa, beautifully assisted by Libby Portillo in the first half.

On the defensive end, goalkeepers Zia Ruppert and Kennie Thomas combined for a total of 12 saves, ensuring a clean sheet against a relentless



The Liberty Ranch girls soccer team with their section banner, hats and patches.

Hilmar offense.

Longstanding head coach Rob Huarte praise d his team after the triumphant win.

"Saying that I am proud of this team would be the understatement of the year," Huarte said. "This group of Lady Hawks faced numerous challenges, yet they persevered and peaked at just the right time. Despite being plagued by several injury setbacks, they rose to the occasion and conquered everyone. The team chemistry was incredible; every player had each other's backs. When this team moves the ball with their methodical style, they become incredibly tough to

Huarte also commended his coaching staff.

"I couldn't be prouder of Brian Casteneda and Karli Hintze," Huarte said. "They bring the perfect balance of technical expertise and tactical leadership to this team. Together, we

are a good coaching team." The excitement isn't



Goalie Zia Rupert defends the goal successfully right before she is knocked down by the Hilmar player.

over yet, the Lady Hawks now prepare for the upcoming NorCal playoffs. Seeding will take place on Sunday, March 2 at 3 p.m.



Freshman Giovanna "Tiny" Guerrero pushes back against Hilmar.



Goalie Kennie Thomas jumps and catches a Hilmar shot on goal.



Desperate to get the ball, a Hilmar player unsuccessfully grabs Juliana Romero.



Serena Tarifa battles with Hilmar and wins.

12 • THE GALT HERALD FEBRUARY 28, 2025

# Warriors' Championship Dreams Dashed in Heartbreaking Semifinals Shootout



Giovanni De Leon scores one of his two goals against Natomas.



Josue Diaz works against the Natomas defense



Ben Stratton throws a slide-tackle while Haydon Miller is ready to defend.



Jaylen Mendez turns the ball



Noah Stratton kicks the ball down the field.

Story and Photos

#### Story and Photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warriors boys' soccer team saw their incredible season come to a heartbreaking end in the semifinals of the section playoffs, succumbing to the top-seeded Woodland team in a nerve-wracking shootout.

Despite their valiant efforts throughout the tournament, the Warriors fell just short, leaving fans and players alike with a bittersweet taste of what could have been.

The Warriors, who entered the playoffs as the fourth seed, displayed remarkable dominance in their opening match against the 13th seeded Natomas, securing an emphatic 7-0 victory. Hayden Miller stole the spotlight with a stunning hat trick, while Giovanni De Leon added two goals of his own.

Contributions from Christian Gomez and Edgar Zavala, who each netted a goal, rounded off an impressive performance. The Warriors' offensive strength was complemented by Ben Stratton's three assists, with Gomez and Bryan Ochoa each adding one assist to their tally.

With confidence high after their rout of Natomas, the Warriors faced the fifth-seeded Lincoln in the semifinals. The match proved to be another showcase of their defensive prowess, as the Warriors shut out Lincoln 3-0. Giovanni De Leon, Hayden Miller, and Jaylen Mendez each found the back of the net. The connection between the players was evident, with Stratton providing two critical assists and Miller also contributing with an assist of his

The stage was then set for a high-stakes clash against top-ranked Woodland. The game lived up to the billing, with both teams displaying skill and determination. The Warriors fought back from an early deficit, and Giovanni De Leon

from an early deficit, and Giovanni De Leon emerged as the hero, scoring both goals for Galt and tying the match at 2-2.

With the score tied at

the end of regulation, the

match proceeded to overtime, where neither team could gain the upper hand, leading to a dramatic shootout. The Warriors struck first in the shootout, finding the net three times, but Woodland proved to be the more resilient side, converting four of their attempts and ending the Warriors' title aspirations.

The loss was particularly painful for Galt, as they had the opportunity to face their crosstown rivals, Liberty Ranch, in the championship match. Instead, Woodland advanced to that showdown but ultimately fell to Liberty Ranch, a team Galt had already bested in the regular season.

As the Warriors reflect

As the warriors reflect on this season, they can take pride in their strong performances and the camaraderie they built along the way. For Coach Julian

along the way.

For Coach Julian
Parra and his squad, it's
a reminder that every
moment counts in the pursuit of a championship,
and while their playoff run
ended earlier than hoped,

the foundation has been

laid for future success. ★



Josue Diaz uses his head.

Monica

Valencia

Galt Soccer

#### GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Photos by Paige Lampson

Serena Tarifa

Liberty Ranch